As on 14,2000, there were 231, 111 and 341 LPG distributorships in operation and 190, 53 and 113 LPG distributorships are pending for selection through interviews by the Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs) in the States of Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal respectively, to meet the demand for LPG.

Decreasing Production in Mumbai High

3036. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production in Mumbai High has been decreasing day-by-day;

(b) if so, the remedial steps proposed; and

(c) whether there is any plan to increase the production level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The oil production from Mumbai High oilfields during the last three years was as under:

(in Million Metric Tonnes)

Year	Oil Production
1997-98	12.435
1998-99	11.586
1999-2000	10.151

(b) and (c) In oder to improve the performance of the field and increase the recovery factor, a monitorable action plan has been prepared by the Expert Committee which includes;

(i) Reservoir characterisation for better understanding of the compelxities of the multi-layered reservoir of Bombay High field through the recently acquired 3-D seismic data.

(ii) Drilling of in-fill wells to exploit by passed/undrained parts of the giant field,

(iii) Re-distribution of injection water for improved conformance.

(iv) Re-completion of poor performing wells.

(v) Engaging of reservior consultant of International repute by ONGC for planning the future development strategy to improve the recovery from the field.

(vi) Engaging of services of the experts by ONGC on application of Gel technology on trial basis in some identified wells for controlling excessive gas and water production and conformance control in injection.

Natural Gas to Rajasthan for Development of a Ceramic Complex

3037. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is considerable scope for development of Ceramic Industry in Rajasthan, if availability of natural gas is assured; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to allocate Natural Gas to Rajasthan for development of a Ceramic Complex?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Currently, natural gas to the extent of 4.223 Million Standard Cubic Metre Per Day (MMSCMD) has been allocated to consumers in Rajasthan. The present availability of gas does not permit any fresh allocation to the Ceramic Industry or other industries in Rajasthan.

Pipeline Gas Distribution System

3038. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pipeline Gas Distribution System has been successfully launched; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has a large gas pipeline network and is currently supplying around 65 Million Standard Cubic Metre Per Day (MMSCMD) of natural gas to various industrial consumers in the country. GAIL has also launched the piped gas distribution to domestic consumers in Delhi and Mumbai through its joint venture companies, namely, Indraprastha Gas Limited and Mahanagar Gas Limited, respectively.